



CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION MEETING

STUDY SESSION MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2023, 1:00 PM

201 S. Cortez Street
Prescott, AZ 86303
Council Chambers

Phil Goode, Mayor

Brandon Montoya, Mayor Pro Tem

Cathey Rusing, Councilmember

Eric Moore, Councilman

Connie Cantelme, Councilwoman

Steve Sischka, Councilman

Clark Tenney, Councilman

MINUTES OF THE STUDY SESSION OF THE PRESCOTT CITY COUNCIL STUDY SESSION HELD ON FEBRUARY 14, 2023, IN THE 201 S. CORTEZ STREET PRESCOTT, AZ 86303 COUNCIL CHAMBERS.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Goode called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Phil Goode	Mayor
Brandon Montoya	Mayor Pro Tem
Connie Cantelme	Councilwoman
Eric Moore	Councilman
Cathey Rusing	Councilmember
Steve Sischka	Councilman
Clark Tenney	Councilman

3. DISCUSSION

- A. Presentation from PROTECT, Planning for Resilience of Our Towns, Environment, Climate and Tourism Releasing the Climate Risk Assessment for Prescott.

Patrick Grady with PROTECT and Yavapai Climate Change Coalition addressed Council regarding the climate profile the group has been working on. He thanked Council for their support on this project. They had a working group that participated in this, all their information is included in the profile details. He added that the contributions from Dr. Allison Meadow and CLIMAS have been invaluable in this process.

Dr. Meadow addressed Council and thanked them for allowing her to participate remotely today. Her role in the project was to work with the group to determine climate impacts in Prescott.

CLIMAS, established in 1998, is a group of researchers at UofA and New Mexico State University that work to improve the ability of the region's social and ecological systems to respond to and thrive in a variable and changing climate.

Community Climate Profiles:

- * Summary of long-term temperature and precipitation data from 1895
- * Current climate trends: warming trends in the last 30 years
- * Projections of climate change at a community scale
- * Summary of general regional climate impacts
- * Examples of possible adaptation strategies

Dr. Meadow reviewed the findings for the selected study area focused on the Prescott Active Management Area (AMA): in the last twenty years nearly annually the temperature has risen above the annual average and it is anticipated that by 2050 the region is projected to be 4-5 degrees warmer and by 2100 the region could be up to 11 degrees warmer (annual 65 degree annual average); little change to annual average precipitation is anticipated (about 18 inches per year). The precipitation is hard to average and determine, but because a warmer atmosphere holds more moisture there could be an additional 10-20 days per year without precipitation and fewer storms overall, consisting of more rain than snow.

General Anticipated Impacts:

- * Human Health – extreme heat places more stress on the body (particularly in older adults, children, those who work outside, those who are socially isolated)
- * Air quality negatively impacted by rising temperatures, wildfires and dust
- * Increased risk in vector born diseases (particularly West Nile Virus)
- * Mental Health implications for those exposed to environmental issues
- * Forest Health Impacts
- * Wildfires
- * Flooding
- * Reduced aquifer recharge (change anticipated at 10-20% reduction)

Mr. Grady continued the discussion stating that the group is also working with Prescott Valley and Chino Valley regarding these materials. He introduced Dr. Greg Murray who has worked with PROTECT on this project.

Dr. Murray thanked Council for their time and provided a presentation regarding the working group's report and focus on solutions that addressed more than one purpose to maintain environmental viability and economic health of the community.

Focus Solutions:

- * Water Resources
- * Wildfire Protection, Healthy Forests, and Grasslands
- * Flooding
- * Energy Use
- * Agriculture and Land Use
- * Community and organizational capacity building

Mayor Goode thanked the group for their presentation.

Mayor Pro Tem Montoya thanked the group for their hard work on this report and project. He suggested they continue to reach out to other elements to share this information the General Plan Committee and Upper Verde River Watershed Protection Coalition in particular.

Councilmember Rusing stated that this presentation is not activist science, it is rooted in data.

Member of the public Howard Mechanic addressed Council and stated that he interacted with a person recently who commented that one of the things that attracts people to the area is our climate, and from his calculations if his grandchildren reach his age and then move to Prescott, its climate will be like that of Mayer. He feels it is important to focus on water resources and water management from this report.

Member of the public Joanne Oellers addressed Council, she stated that she participated in the working group and was speaking on behalf of Save the Dells. She appreciates the regional approach to remove the feeling of isolation between the various communities and recognizes the importance of grass roots efforts and climate resiliency.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

- B. Initial Presentation and Discussion Regarding the 2023-2028 City of Prescott Fire Department Fire Strategic Plan.

Fire Chief Holger Durre provided a presentation to Council regarding the draft Strategic Plan for the Fire Department. This is an expansion of the 2019 project to establish the department's identity.

Key Point – innovation and prioritization need to blend with traditional solutions to solve the issues; 92% of internal stakeholders participated in the establishment of the Department identity and he is very proud of what has come out of these discussions.

Key Factors:

- * Department is at a crossroads due to community growth, increased service demand and rising costs
- * Impacts the department's ability to meet the community's needs at the level our stakeholders expect
- * Due to this the organization has become more reactive while the opposite is needed
- * Firefighters and staff are beyond their capacity

- * More complex city policy environment
 - * Public safety services are a primary function, but community issues are wide ranging
 - * Solutions require collaboration, innovation and 1995 was the last time a station was built in this community and since then little staffing has been added and incidents have increased.
- Chief Durre noted that the 2022 response time for EMS calls was 11:28 with 6,775 incidents.

Other Factors:

- * Force hire instances approaching 100 annually
- * Roughly 75% of line firefighters carry program management responsibilities (health and safety, EMS, equipment, clothing, and supplies)
- * 40-hour staff are overloaded (multiple chief roles, recordkeeping, and administrative support)
- * ISO rating increases at CAFMA (this is a negative impact on staff)
- * Impacts on homeowners' policies in Prescott
- * Opportunities for errors and mistakes have increased

Core Challenges:

- * Significant investment in public safety infrastructure is needed
- * Gap is too wide to overcome by using new infrastructure alone
- * Infrastructure and innovation are required
- * Outcomes achieved for citizens should drive decision-making and planning

Contributing Factors:

- * Focus on outputs
- * The nail and the hammer
- * Reduced ability to analyze impacts, advocate for change and apply/implement effective solutions
- * Public safety is a valuable community resource with an associated cost
- * PSPRS backlog limited the available options

Seven Strategic Issues:

- * Staffing and infrastructure
- * Occupational Safety
- * Data Collection and Analysis
- * Community Growth
- * Sustainable funding
- * Resource viability
- * Workforce development

Strategic Result Areas

- * Reduce response times with innovation and adaptation – focus on key community issues that response alone can't fix with alternatives (low-acuity calls, reimagine the Wildland Mitigation Strategy, invest and partner in emergency management, improve community health issues like cardiac arrest by engaging the whole system)
- * Staff is looking into "move up model" with CAFMA which would be a \$120,000 cost between both agencies
- * Infrastructure – positioning to deliver strategic results

- * Workforce – support our people, health and safety renovations, career development and organizational succession planning
- * Performance Measurement – leveraging the value of data, establish performance management system to measure report and take correct action, ensure that result-oriented performance measures inform operational, policy and budget decisions
- * Vision & Values – forged by values and energized by vision, maintain strong values in the department and encourage a forward looking commitment to our work, ensure alignment with a customer focused culture, act on organizational values and evaluate organizational culture continuously

Basic Facts:

- * \$24 million in capital and one-time expenses
- * \$6 million in operating and ongoing expenses
- * Department budget restructure – four sections (divisions) and 15 groups (major programs)
- * 368 unique services delivered

Chief Durre stated that this plan is outcome focused with measurable plans that are directly related to funding.

Mayor Goode thanked staff for their time and asked about the change in response time from 2020-2021 and then from 2021-2022. The city has critical immediate needs to be addressed and the others will be budget and planning associated, there are many challenges on the general fund which is where public safety services come from.

Chief Durre stated that the data point being used is phone pickup to on scene pronouncements, call processes have varied though which impacts the data calculations. It was surprising that the city did not receive the SAFER Grant Funding and he is not sure how that will change but ultimately those types of funds help to offset costs and don't guarantee it.

Councilmember Rusing commented that this has been needed for a long time and must be addressed, she added that the city has a mutual aid/assist agreement with other jurisdictions and are required to assist within the County and Tribal areas as well. She asked Chief Durre to address low-acuity call volume impact.

Chief Durre commented that anytime someone calls 911 a big truck goes out, but it would be possible to triage calls at PRCC and send a smaller unit where appropriate in low-acuity situations which would reduce the volume and focusing emergency responses. Another suggestion is a community paramedic program (this was done in Mesa very successfully). These types of calls will never go away altogether; they are important requests, but it is critical to send an appropriate resource to respond.

Councilwoman Cantelme commented that this report is wonderful, she appreciated the detail and data collection as it is needed in order to move forward.

Chief Durre responded that this was a group effort of many departments and internal stakeholders.

Mayor Pro Tem Montoya echoed Council comments and concurred that there is an immediate staffing need which grants cannot solve but continuing to apply for help is a great idea. He is grateful to have Chief Durre in charge during these difficult times the department is facing.

Councilman Sischka asked what Chief Durre meant by the "PSPRS backlog". He added that Council and staff always discuss infrastructure, but hiring good firefighters is difficult and that is an area to be focused on as well.

Chief Durre stated that he is referring to the time period in which paying that backlog limited spending in other areas. He added that he is happy to report there was a recently successful recruitment for new traditional firefighters, and the department has 50 applicants for the lateral hiring as well.

Councilman Moore asked for clarification on whether the CAFMA change is a positive or negative change.

Chief Durre responded that it is negative, one of the issues was their inability to address response calls which is something that concerns him because their Insurance Services Office (ISO) ratings do impact our own.

Mayor Goode asked if the department has tried the "quick truck program" the Chief referenced in his reports.

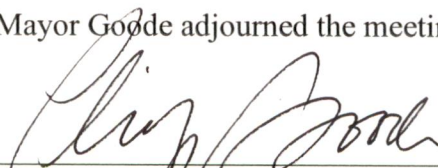
Chief Durre stated that they did try a pilot program of this, but didn't have adequate staffing to continue it.

Mayor Goode stated that as there are more and more changes and challenges to the general fund it may be necessary for the city to find additional revenue to address these issues and possibly look at a tax for public safety.

This item was for discussion only, no formal action was taken.

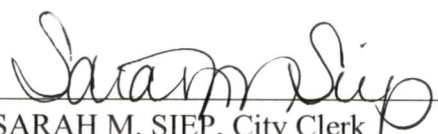
4. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Goode adjourned the meeting at 2:28 p.m.



PHILIP R. GOODE, Mayor

ATTEST:



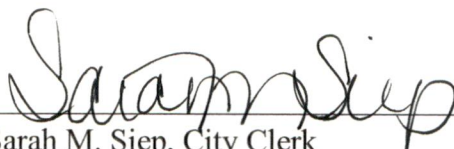
SARAH M. SIEP, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council Study Session of the City of Prescott, Arizona held on February 14, 2023. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this 2 day of March, 2023.





Sarah M. Siep, City Clerk